



Military Spouses Fact Sheet

Our Goal

- Collaborate with government, private, non-profit, educational, and labor partners to support growing employment opportunities for military spouses.

Fast Facts

- 92% of military spouses are women.
- 53% participated in the labor market, compared to 76% of the general population.
- 13% unemployed—about three times the national rate (May 2017).
- 89% have some college education. 30% have a four-year degree, while 15% have an advanced degree.
- Underemployment: 31.6% of military spouses are employed part-time, but may prefer full-time work.
- Occupational licenses: 34% of employed spouses work in occupations that require licenses.
 - ✓ Typically, military families move frequently and military spouses find it difficult to transfer licenses from state to state, delaying their return to the workforce.
- Concern about limited number of years they can commit to any job, due to their service member's reassignment.
 - ✓ The truth is, military spouse employment tenure is largely in-line with the general population.
 - ✓ Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that the average tenure for an employee in the general workforce is 4.2 years. For the 25-34 age group, the median tenure is 2.8 years.



Women's Bureau Work in Action

- The Women's Bureau held a series of listening sessions across the country to hear directly from the military spouse community and better understand the employment challenges facing them.
- The Women's Bureau has established a partnership with the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) team. Last year, VETS launched a dedicated online portal for military spouses, featuring a range of employment resources including information on transferring occupational licenses (<https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses>).
 - ✓ The Women's Bureau collaborated with VETS to launch the Military Spouse Interstate License Recognition Options interactive map as part of this portal, providing a centralized platform for the patchwork of interstate recognition options to assist military spouses with planning their next career step when relocating.
- The Women's Bureau is also working with VETS to design a targeted Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for military spouses relocating to a new station with their service member or transitioning to civilian life. This curriculum will be separate from the one designed for the service members and will help transitioning military spouses to successfully navigate the job market and continue building meaningful careers.